

From: heinos
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The DOJ anti-trust settlement recently concluded is fair for all parties concerned. Further litigation should be avoided since any outcome will in most probability make it more difficult and costly for the consumer, the computer industry and the economy as a whole. The market should determine who the economic winners and losers are and not determined by the never ending litigation in the courts. From my viewpoint this anti-trust action was driven more by Microsoft's competitors rather than by the consumer who should always be the real beneficiary of any anti-trust action. It would be interesting to know how many of the 150+ million computer users, excluding those employed by competing firms, voiced a complaint in regards to this lawsuit.

If it wasn't for the low cost bundled standardized operating system packages produced by Microsoft, the computer industry and it's technical offshoots would not be as widespread and orderly as they are today. In fact, many of Microsoft's competitors would not be in existence today if it were not for the success of Microsoft in developing this mass market. Should a company be penalized for producing a high quality, low cost product purchased by consumers who own 90% of all personal computers? A 90% penetration of the personal computer market sounds like a howling consumer endorsement of Microsoft products! In the area of consumer costs, the cost of an installed Microsoft PC operating system package in a new computer probably wouldn't be enough to pay for an hour spent at dinner for two at most medium priced restaurants; whereas, the consumer gets thousands of hours of enjoyment from the same investment.

Finally, all companies should be free to add (bundle) any features into their products as they see fit to make the product more versatile to the mass of consumers. It's true that some consumers may not want a particular feature in a product, but consumers have always been buying mass produced products with features that they may, or may not use. Should software be sold any differently than other product lines, or do software packages have to be expensively tailored for each of the 150+ million personal computer users? Where would personal transportation be today if the evolution of the automobile was stopped at the invention of the wheel thousands of years ago?

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